

IV. Remarks.

The Examiner entered the following rejections.

1. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Please see amended claim 6.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Billups (EP 1180615).

As to claim 1, Billups does not teach all of the claim limitations. Billups discloses a power transmission belt used for synchronous drive applications, col. 1, lines 56-58. The synchronous belt disclosed in Billups comprises teeth (29) extending transverse to an endless direction, col. 2, lines 46-50 and Fig. 1. It is known in the art that a synchronous belt uses teeth to engage driver and driven sprockets.¹ Contrary to this teaching, the claimed belt comprises ribs that run in an endless direction. The different types of belt (synchronous vrs. ribbed) are not equivalent since the teeth in a synchronous belt run at 90° to the direction of ribs in a ribbed belt.² A synchronous belt cannot be used in pulleys designed for ribbed belts. Hence, this limitation is not taught.

Claims 2-11 depend directly or ultimately from claim 1. Applicant requests all claims be passed to allowance.

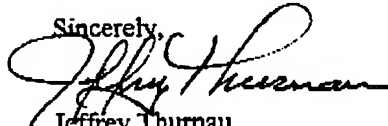
3. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Westhoff (US 5,971,879)

Claims 12-14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

V. Fees

Any fees payable for this response and request for extension of time may be deducted from deposit account 07-0475 in the name of The Gates Corporation. Thank you for your attention to this case.

Date: June 2, 2005

Sincerely,

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¹ See Wallace D. Erickson, Belt Selection and Application for Engineers, pages 242-244, Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1987, attached.

² Erickson, supra, pages 10-13, attached.